

AURICLE

A Medical Society Publication

Thurs., Feb. 25, 1981

The Medical Student in Perspective

Part Five-- Self-concept

The way one generally feels about himself or how he sees himself at various points in his life can be considered a measure of his emotional well-being. When students were asked to compare themselves now with themselves before starting medical school, 56% in Year 1, 33% in Year 2 and only 21% in Year 3 considered themselves emotionally the same person now as then. In general, the change reported for Years 2 and 3 was in the direction of becoming more stable. However, when students were asked about specific feelings, increases were found in self-doubts, feelings of inferiority, helplessness, professional inadequacy, frustration and aggression for 3rd year students compared to the two earlier years.

FEELINGS EXPERIENCED	PERCENT WHO OFTEN EXPERIENCED		
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Self-doubt	9	19	33*
Inferiority	13	8	34*
Hopelessness	8	8	14*
Passivity	10	9	9
Pessimism	4	15	13
Professional inadequacy	9	13	28*
Frustration/aggression	11	15	28*
Panic attacks	13	4	8

Do you ever question or second-guess yourself about choosing a career in medicine? In years 1 and 2, 60-68% rare-

ly or never do, while 28% in year 3 often and regularly do (versus 38% who never do). If students could not complete medical school for any reason, 27-34% would have a viable alternative to turn to, 20-29% would find another profession, 13-29% would "take off" a few months or longer, and only 2-7% would find a job.

Howard Rudner, Barry Engelhardt, Elliott Weiss, 8T2



"I'm not very hungry, Mister, but I sure could use a drink."

From the Feb. 18 Meeting of the UMCC.....

It was announced that an Ad Hoc Committee on the teaching of undergraduate emergency medicine has been set up and will be headed by Dr. J. Fallis from HSC. As well, the new Coordinator of Electives will be announced in the near future. The remainder of the meeting centered on whether 3rd year students should be allowed to retain copies of their comprehensive exams. While various arguments were expressed, it was concluded that many students use old exams as an important guide to studying. As well, it would be very difficult to enforce such a policy. The motion was NOT passed, and exam papers may still be retained after exams as is the usual practice.

Elliott Weiss, Karen O'Neill, Bev Walters

SIGNIFICANT NEWS FROM THE MONDAY MEETING OF FACULTY COUNCIL:

1. The incidental fee for 3rd year medical students will increase by \$25 next year to cover the cost of labcoat cleaning, as in 2nd year. It was only recently discovered by the Faculty of Medicine that 3rd year students have, in the past, been receiving a freebee at the expense of the Faculty. For the record, you will note that your student representative voted against the increase, only to be far outnumbered by the Faculty reps.

2. In the controversial discussion regarding the elimination of the practice eligibility route to licensure in Family Practice, the following routes were publicized as being acceptable for eligibility to writing the qualifying exams.

CONVENTIONAL ROUTE

a) Completion of an --> Yr 1 Family --> Yr 2 Family --> exams
MD degree at a Practice Practice
Canadian medical Residency residency
school

ALTERNATE ROUTES

b) Completion of an --> 1 yr approved --> Yr 1 Family --> 6 mos of Yr --> exams
MD degree at a internship Practice 2 Family
Canadian medical (6 mos credit residency Practice
school given) residency

c) Completion of an --> 1 yr approved --> Yr 1 of --> Yr 2 of --> Yr 2 of --> exams
MD degree at a internship General General Family
Canadian medical Practice Practice Practice
school in com. in com. residency

d) Completion of an --> 1 yr approved --> Yr 2 approved --> Yr 2 Family --> exams
MD degree at a internship internship Practice
Canadian medical residency
school com. = community

* approved = rotating or straight internship or residency in medicine, surgery, pediatrics, ob/gyn or psychiatry.

MWA BANQUET: Don't forget the "Women's Banquet, 1981", Fri., March 6 at the Town and Country, 145 Mutual St. There will be a cash bar at 6:30 and a mixed hot and cold buffet at 7:00. Tickets are \$5 from your MWA reps: 8T1-Nancy Kent; 8T2-Kim Plaxton; 8T3- Sue Goldstein; 8T4-Lori Moore. This is NOT an athletic banquet-- ANY medical women are invited, including Art as Applied to Medicine.

THE CONTINUING PINBALL SAGA

Tuesday, March 3, 1981 is the monumental day when the pinball machines will be moved from the Alumni Lounge to the back of Room 2140, the "women's" lockerroom. Access will be through the lockerroom only. The furniture presently in that room will be redistributed to other women's lounges throughout the building. (Sorry, Jill)

The "women's lounge" on 3rd floor of MS8, which was originally destined to be the new pinball room, will henceforth be an Employees Lounge and access will be denied to all medical students (either sex). It is hoped that in the near future, the Alumni Lounge will acquire a new rug, repaired furniture, plants and a quiet atmosphere; that sleep and study will be permitted.

Finally, a part-time job opportunity is now available as a consequence of the opening of the new "Pinball Lounge". A student, preferably from the class of 8T4, perhaps an avid pinball player, is required to polish the machines and mop the floor daily and report non-functioning machines as required. Please call Mr. Peter Davis at 657-1782 as soon as possible.

NESTLÉ BOYCOTT: (Infact) Infant Formula Action Coalition of Toronto has approached the Medical Society for their support and financial aid in their efforts to boycott Nestlé's. The Information regarding the detrimental effects of infant formula versus breast feeding in the third world countries is posted opposite the Medical Society Office.

RIDES/RIDERS WANTED AND AVAILABLE: Travelling anywhere and need someone to share gas costs/needng a ride somewhere--see bulletin board inside SAC office (12 Hart House Circle).

PROVINCIAL ELECTION: SAC has sent letters to all U. of T. Alumni urging them to make "university underfunding" an issue in the upcoming election (April 19, 1981). No endorsement of any provincial party is being advocated but, that you, as alumni, or as students, question all door-to-door campaigners and candidates at meetings about the issue, about tuition increases and about OSAP inadequacies. For further information, see letter on Medical Society Bulletin Board.

This week's editor... Megan Sykes